



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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Coastal Swamp Metarranthis

Metarranthis pilosaria

State Status: **Special Concern**

Federal Status: None

Description: The Coastal Swamp Metarranthis is a geometrid moth with smoothly curved postmedian lines on all four wings, the area inside the postmedian lines reddish-brown and the area outside pinkish-tan; the reniform spots are absent, and the discal spots small and black; all four wings are peppered with black, and are bright orange ventrally. The wingspan is 24-28 mm.

Habitat: In Massachusetts the Coastal Swamp Metarranthis inhabits acidic swamps and bogs, as well as sandplain pitch pine/scrub oak barrens and heathlands.

Life History: Adult moths fly in June and early July. Larvae feed on blueberry (*Vaccinium*) in dry habitats, and blueberry, cranberry (*Vaccinium*), and probably also leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) or other heaths in wet habitats. Larvae feed through the summer, and pupate in September. The pupa overwinters.

Range: The Coastal Swamp Metarranthis is endemic to eastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and southern New Jersey. In Massachusetts it is found on the southeastern coastal plain, and in a few inland bogs.



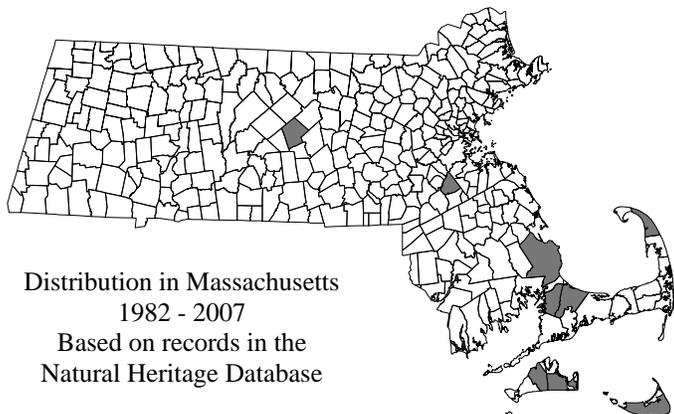
Photo by M.W. Nelson

Adult Flight Period in Massachusetts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Threats

- Habitat loss
- Fire suppression
- Hydrologic alteration
- Invasion by exotic plants
- Introduced generalist parasitoids
- Insecticide spraying
- Off-road vehicles
- Light pollution



Distribution in Massachusetts
1982 - 2007
Based on records in the
Natural Heritage Database